



The Southwester

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Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities

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Developing a Growing Community

By: Kael Anderson, SWNA President

Last month Southwest community leaders came to an agreement with Telesis, the developers of the Randall School. For those not familiar with the development plan, over half of the existing structure will be demolished and a much larger, 130-foot building will rise in its place. The new complex will include an art museum, bookstore, café, auditorium and 550 new residences.

While there are a number of things to cheer about, this development will intensify the demand for finite resources, such as park land, recreation facilities, schools, and transportation infrastructure. Community leaders expressed concerns about direct impacts on the adjacent Randall Recreation Center, including the residential tower shadowing the swimming pool, and a vehicular drop-off circle carved out of what's long been considered part of the recreation center.

Traditionally, maintenance and enhancements to public resources were provided through the government's operating and capital budgets. Recently, however, DC has been reducing its direct expenditures. For example, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation used to assign 3 full time staffers to Randall Rec-



reation Center, keeping it open six hours a day except on Sundays. Now, not only has DC eliminated the staff, it's also inadequately maintaining the facility.

Southwest community leaders have been striving to fill in the gap. One crucial tool is a zoning procedure known as the Planned Unit Development process. Developers wishing to build more than what's allowed at the base zoning level must go through this

public process wherein the marginal impacts of the development must be offset by a corollary set of benefits. The decision is made by the zoning commission based on an analysis by the Office of Planning and testimony from stakeholders.

We applaud Telesis for agreeing to a commendable package of benefits, including affordable housing, new open space, and transportation improvements. Among other artistic benefits, Telesis agreed to free admission to the museum for ANC 6D residents, supporting a visual arts project, organizing an exhibit of ANC 6D resident artwork, as well as organizing & sponsoring a free annual art festival. Community leaders are particularly grateful that Telesis agreed to contribute \$20,000 toward a comprehensive study of Southwest's history and \$1,000 per month for five years toward Randall Recreation Center programming.

The disappointing news is that the District's Office of Planning is currently recommending increasing the base zoning for many key parcels in Southwest to the maximum density allowable under the Height Act. If these recommendations, developed in the DC Zoning Rewrite proposal and the Southwest Small Area Plan, are approved, the Planned Unit Development process—and the associated benefits requirements—will no longer be required of developers. We encourage Southwesters to express their concerns.

IT FINALLY HAPPENED!



On Wednesday, March 19th, The Wharf finally broke ground. Attended by dignitaries and mayoral candidates alike, the crowd numbering in the hundreds was overwhelmingly filled with Southwest residents who turned out to see this day finally come.

Photo: Shannon Vaughn

Decriminalization Nation?

By: Paula Lin and Joseph Chin

Four decades ago, Richard Nixon waged the modern war on drugs that still severely impacts Americans today, especially in our quaint neighborhood of Southwest DC. According to a study published in July 2013 by the Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, there were roughly 950 drug arrests in Ward 6 in 2011. More than 80 percent of those arrested were African American, despite African Americans making up only 41 percent of the Ward 6 population and drug usage rates being similar amongst various races. These statistics show an obvious disparity within the district's legal system when it comes to drug arrests.

Recently, Councilmember Tommy Wells (D-Ward 6) proposed the Marijuana Possession Decriminalization Amendment Act of 2014, which has passed the Council's vote and is now heading to Mayor Vincent Gray for signature approval. This act would reduce cannabis* possession in DC to a civil penalty, rather than a criminal offense, with a punishment fee of just \$25, or \$100 if caught using cannabis in public. 16 states have already decriminalized cannabis use, with two states fully legalizing the sale and use of recreational cannabis.

Macro policies influence micro lives very deeply. The policies of the war on drugs have severely impacted the lives of everyone in our community. America has the highest incarceration rates in the world: 743 per 100,000 citizens compared to many Western European countries



Mayoral candidate and Ward 6 councilman Tommy Wells speaks on his marijuana decriminalization bill at the mayoral forum at Arena Stage.

with less than 100 per 100,000. In 2009 and 2010, 20 percent of all arrests in DC were for drug-related charges, with 40 percent of those arrests being in relation to cannabis. Arrests for non-violent crimes have escalated over the years, and are still continuing to do so. These arrests

See "Decriminalization," page 5



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CBCC Encourages CBA Coalition for Neighborhood Development Projects

By: Felicia Coutts

With a soccer stadium proposed for Buzzard Point and the highly contested CSX tunnel project in Capitol Riverfront, residents and organizations of Southwest/Navy Yard must pull together to demand that comprehensive, enforceable agreements be signed by the city, developers, and community benefits agreement (CBA) coalitions if, and before, these projects proceed.

Through summits and roundtables, many Southwest/Navy Yard residents have clearly prioritized the need to negotiate for financial and additional benefits to support local workforce development, strengthen neighborhood schools, sustain nearby community centers, develop locally-owned businesses, increase all levels of affordable housing, and underwrite ongoing enforcement of agreements. CBAs make sure that whenever development happens, whether desired or undesired, priorities like these are addressed.

Ruth Hamilton, chair of the Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC), a non-profit started in 2009 to work with ANC6D commissioners to negotiate and enforce community benefits agreements, recently attended the 2014 Community Benefits Summit in Los Angeles, CA. Sponsored by the Partnership for Working Families, there were over 35 cities represented and 50 CBA groups, including CBCC.

"It was encouraging to see grass-roots groups around the country not only helping to strengthen city-wide policies but also making sure there is direct impact at the neighborhood level"

Hamilton stated.

The biggest win for the community benefits approach nationwide was last April in New York City when the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance (KARA), a broad-based coalition of community organizations, successfully negotiated a CBA for the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory in the Northwest Bronx. They did this after first stopping a major project proposed by Mayor Bloomberg. The new project, an ice sports center, will include nine hockey rinks, a 5,000-seat arena, and a 50,000-square-foot community space. Under the CBA, the developer agreed to:

- an \$8,000,000 initial contribution, plus substantial ongoing contributions, to a coalition-controlled fund that may be used for specified community needs;
- formal structures for community-based oversight and enforcement of CBA commitments;
- a grant program for local businesses that employ large numbers of local workers;
- priority community access to the project's athletic facilities;
- a "wall-to-wall" living wage payment requirement, covering all workers within the project; and more.

Just this past February, ACCORD, a group in DC's Ward 8 comprised of several community organizations and the ANC 8E, proposed a multi-million dollar CBA to 5914 LLC, a developer who has submitted a PUD to construct a 236,000-square-foot office building and a 205- to 215-unit apartment building atop the Congress Heights metro station. Among several

items, ACCORD's CBA requests: a minimum \$2 million in financial support for ACCORD, paid out over 20 years, to support Ward 8 non-profit organizations that provide recreational, social services, and educational programs, and a 1,000-square-foot office space for 10 years, with three 10-year extensions, for ANC 8E, at a cost of \$1 per month. Although the developer has not yet signed on to the CBA, ACCORD is confident that they will reach an agreement.

The Southwest/Navy Yard community has missed opportunities for funding and ongoing support for local priorities from major projects like the ballpark and portals. The level of collaboration needed to gain significant benefits has not yet been achieved and CBCC is working to change this. In relation to the proposed soccer stadium, CBCC has joined the Winning Goal Coalition, started by SWNA, along with the DC Fiscal Policy Institute and Unite Here, a union of concession stand workers. Growth of this coalition will strengthen the CBA and ensure the DC Council does not approve any stadium plan until such a CBA is signed by all parties. At a recent forum, both Ward 6 Council candidates strongly affirmed the need for such an enforceable agreement. In relation to the CSX tunnel, CBCC stands by Navy Yard residents in their opposition to the project, but also understands that a CBA must be ready if the project goes forward in spite of widespread opposition. To get involved with these coalitions, or for more information on joining a CBCC committee, please visit our website at www.seswcbcc.org, follow us on Twitter @seswcbcc, or email our Coordinator, Felicia Coutts, at fcouts@seswcbcc.org.

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National Cherry Blossom Festival Merchandise

Cherry Blossom Stage

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1 – 1:30 PM

United States Joint Armed Forces Color Guard
1:30

Chelsey Green
2:30 – 3:30 PM

4 Ever Young Music Group Showcase
4 – 5 PM

The United States Army Band Downrange
6 – 7 PM

The United States Army Blues
7:30 – 8:30 PM

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Face Painting, presented by Procter & Gamble

Balloon Art, presented by Medieval Times

National Cherry Blossom Festival Merchandise

Marina Stage

EW Stokes Public Charter School Steel Drum Ensemble
2:30 – 3 PM

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington
4:30 – 5 PM

Bach 2 Rock
5:30 – 6:30 PM

La Unica
7 – 8 PM

THE WASHINGTON CHANNEL

Supported by Washington Waterfront Association

700 Water Street, SW:

John H. Glenn Fireboat
2:30 PM

Dragon Boat Excursions
3:30 – 6 PM

DC Sail Demonstrations
3:30 – 6:30 PM

John H. Glenn Fireboat
7 PM

Prelude to the Fireworks

Pink Palooza from Docked Vessels
7:30 PM

Illumination of Floating Lanterns
8:10 PM

Lighted Koi Boats
8:15 PM

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Waterfront Park
700 Water Street, SW:

Paint a Japanese Koinobori (windsock)

Make a Japanese Fighting Fish (lantern)

Craft a Japanese Dragon (sock-puppet)

Create a T-shirt, presented by DC Harbor Patrol

7th Street Stage

The Diggity Dudes
2 – 3:30 PM

Calypso Nuts
4 – 5:30 PM

Wil Gravatt Band
6 – 7:30 PM

Nen Daiko Taiko Drummers
8 – 8:30 PM

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DC Strokes Expands Rowing Programs

By: Paul Heaton

DC Strokes Rowing Club has expanded its offerings for 2014 and invites those interested in the sport, as well as experienced rowers, to learn more at “Spring Rush,” which will take place at Nellie’s Sports Bar (900 U Street NW) on Wednesday, April 2nd, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

No experience is necessary to participate in the club’s popular “Learn to Row” programs, which begin the last week of April and offer four different schedule options.

DC Strokes has added a Recreational Program for rowers who want to get out on the water but not necessarily compete in regattas. The program will meet on weekend mornings starting in June, and is ideal for experienced rowers who want to be a part of the team, but without as much of a commitment.

Participants from all of DC Strokes’ programs will be at “Spring Rush” on April 2nd to answer questions. Kendra Hunt, 26, of Rockville, participated in the 2013 DC Strokes Learn to Row program.

“I’d never rowed before, and fell in love with the sport,” Hunt said. “It’s a friendly, team-oriented environment...and great exercise.”

The Competitive Program in 2014, among



other regattas, will compete at Masters Nationals in Grand Rapids, MI, and the Head of the Charles in Boston. The Competitive Program rows weekday mornings.

The Club Program, which meets three evenings a week, is a great environment for rowers of all ages and abilities. 2014 competitions will include the Gay Games in Cleveland, OH, as well as regional regattas.

The Competitive and Club programs began March 24th.

DC Strokes Rowing Club, which is based at the Anacostia Boathouse, is one of only a handful of dedicated, independent LGBT rowing clubs in the world. The club provides competitive and recreational rowing opportunities in a safe and supportive environment for rowers of all skill levels. For more information visit www.dcstrokes.org.

Meet Stacy Cloyd: Newest ANC 6D Commissioner

I have lived in Southwest since 2009, and moved to Capitol Park IV in 2012. It is an honor to serve on ANC 6D, and my goals as commissioner include:

- Increasing pedestrian access, parking, and bus service throughout SW and Near SE;
- Encouraging mixed-income housing development including units with more than two bedrooms;
- Creating a friendly environment for businesses that improve local quality of life;
- Ensuring the ANC 6D website is accurate and up-to-date;
- Supporting local schools and advocating for keeping ANC 6D’s current high school boundaries; and
- Improving local parks and recreation centers.

I graduated from Smith College and then received law and urban planning degrees from the University of Michigan; I am also a LEED Accredited Professional. I recently started work as a domestic policy analyst (before that, I practiced law for four years, with a focus on Social Security issues) and am now pleased to both live and work in ANC 6D!

When I’m not at home or work, you’re still likely to find me in the neighborhood: picking up groceries at Safeway, checking out books at the Southwest Library, cheer-



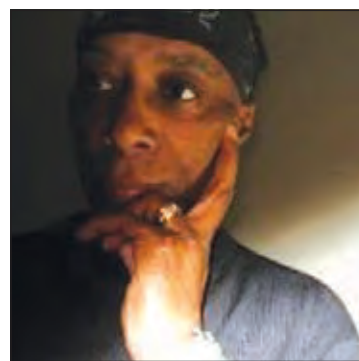
photo credit: Linda O'Brien, Tommy Wells' Chief of Staff

ing on the Nats, enjoying a show at Arena Stage, or jogging or biking at Gold’s Gym or Yards Park. I’ve had a community garden plot at the St. Matthew’s site the past four summers and my wife Emily and I won a space at the garden in Lansburgh Park, so I’ll be spending a lot of time at those two sites this summer. Come say “Hi!” - I’ll be the short woman in glasses being bitten by all the mosquitoes. Alternately, you can reach me at 6D02@anc.dc.gov or (202) 734-0205.

Stacy Cloyd
ANC Commissioner, 6D02
J.D., Master of Urban Planning, LEED AP

Film Viewing Features Unique Southwest Film

Dirt, Ground, Earth, Land, a unique film initiated in 1977 by Howard University film professor and DC filmmaker Alonzo Crawford, in collaboration with the residents of Carrollsburg Place, will be shown at Westminster Church, 400 I St SW, on March 29th at 1:00 p.m. A



Alonzo Crawford

lifelong advocate of “community film-making.” Professor Crawford met some residents of Carrollsburg Place and learned of their concern surrounding substandard housing conditions and their complaints about a particular unresponsive landlord. Crawford invited them to share their concerns and tell their story using the medium

of film, creating this dramatic piece that speaks to their collective experience. Residents became so motivated and inspired by the process that they extended their complaints in a legal action against the landlord during which this film, the crew (a collaboration of Carrollsburg residents and Howard film students), and

Professor Crawford, were subpoenaed as evidence. The verdict ultimately favored the residents.

Professor Crawford will be on hand on March 29th to present the film, followed by a time of reflection and discussion about its meaning and the process of making it.



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Final Two SW Nights at Arena Stage

By: Sheila Wickouski

Save the dates for the final two SW Nights of the season at Arena Stage:

Sunday, April 20th, at 6:00 p.m. *Camp David*

Tuesday, May 27th, at 7:30 p.m. *Smokey Joe's Café*

Southwest DC residents may buy discounted tickets for specially designated performances of each production. Tickets are \$35 for musicals and \$25 for non-musicals, plus fees. Proof of Southwest DC residency or employment for each member of the party must be presented at the time of purchase. Tickets are limited to four per person and are based on availability. Sales Office at 1101 6th St SW.



DECRIMINALIZATION

From p. 1

affect mostly marginalized groups in lower socioeconomic status, who are already in vulnerable situations. These drug regulations have broken up communities on a large and small scale. Studies have shown that when parents go to jail, their children are more likely to end up in jail as well. The war on drugs has created a prison industrial complex worth \$35 billion annually, where private prisons benefit from the profits of enslaving people in jails.

With legalization on the horizon, let's examine the economics in Colorado, the first state to cash in on cannabis legalization. In January 2013, sales of medical cannabis led to a tax revenue of \$256,856; compare that to January 2014 sales, which led to a total tax revenue of \$3,519,756. The governor of Colorado estimates that the sales tax on recreational cannabis will bring in \$610 million in taxes for the state by the end of the year. In terms of what that could mean for DC, the entire public school system was allocated \$523 million for fiscal year 2014 and the budget of the entire Metro Police Dept. was \$480 million in 2012. With the amount of tourism that DC already receives (almost 19 million people per year) you can imagine the potential fortune the District could inherit. Factor in the already admirable surplus to the city's budget in past years (\$321 million for fiscal year 2014) and the city stands to really benefit from full-on legalization of cannabis.

Opponents of legalization make many arguments that have some ground, but it may be too early to tell from society's experiment in Colorado. In a look at crime statistics from January and February 2014 vs. 2013 in Denver, CO, there was an increase in crimes against persons by about 13.7 percent; a decrease in crimes against property by six percent; a decrease in crimes against society by two percent; and a statistically significant increase in disorderly conduct/disturbing the peace by 85 percent, however police observational bias may need to be taken into account on that one. Of note, the amount of drug and narcotic violations has remained roughly the same – 383 in 2014 vs. 389 in 2013 (keep in mind this is only January and February). These statistics are interesting to look at, but do not contain enough data for us to make any substantial conclusions on the effects on society from legalization of cannabis.

Cannabis was once prescribed as legitimate

medicine back in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was not until the turn of the 20th century that certain drugs were deemed illegal because of high rates of drug abuse. Media propaganda was used to influence people's judgment of cannabis; *Reefer Madness* (1936), a cult classic, portrayed the dangers and perils of cannabis so severely that America's people stopped questioning the government and agreed to outlaw cannabis. The cultural revolution of the 1960s, however, brought the usage back into question and it has remained a controversial issue to this day, and is gaining momentum.

Although two states across the nation have already legalized cannabis, Mayor Gray has proclaimed he is "not there yet" when it comes to full legalization of the plant. Most ideologies of drug policies are rooted from puritanical beliefs that harsh and severe punishment will lead to a safer and more secure society. Billions (\$9.6 billion for fiscal year 2014) of taxpayer's dollars are spent every year on law enforcement agencies in the US designed to fight the War on Drugs. However, we are currently losing the war on drugs, big time. Not only are drugs more easily available, they are cheaper and a lot more potent.

Studies have shown that there have been zero deaths associated with cannabis since the history of its cultivation, while alcohol and tobacco are associated with killing more than 500,000 people every year in the US. If policies are supposed to benefit the interest of the people, how are these drug laws logical?

In a city that is supposed to represent the nation's capital, decriminalization would be the first step to progressing as a country. Ward 6 mayoral candidate Tommy Wells says that, "decriminalizing would be about unifying the community and making it a better place for people of all classes." With the Democratic primary election taking place on April 1st, the residents of DC have the potential to elect a leader who will raise the standard of living and make this city a better place to live. Marijuana law reform is clearly an issue that will arise during the next mayor's term in office and it is time to think about a progressive plan that will benefit the city and its residents.

*The term cannabis is used to denote marijuana because it is the official medicinal term that was used when it was still legal.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: Arena Stage

By: Shannon Vaughn

Arena Stage is one of our neighborhood's most prized possessions, but relatively under-utilized by the people who live here. In talking with neighbors and friends, the answer for why this is is usually, "I think it's too fancy for me to just walk in. I don't know what I would be getting into." For this KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, I specifically chose to do no research ahead of time on the play, nor the venue.

It's 7:35pm and I've just walked up to Arena Stage for the opening night of Ann Randolph's *LOVELAND*. I am meeting The Southwester's very own Arena Stage reviewer extraordinaire, Sheila Wickouski, who, funnily enough, I have yet to meet in my tenure on the paper. As I walk up to the entrance on 6th street, I notice tickets are not taken at the front door—the venue is open for all to come and look around on the inside (there's even a restaurant). Then the moment of fear strikes me: I don't know where to get my tickets or even what Sheila looks like. The simple layout of the entrance level is calming and straightforward: the box office, including same-day ticket sales, is to the right; coat check is to the left. Once I find Sheila, we walk upstairs where an usher leads the way to the Kogod Cradle, and there we meet the ticket taker. She directs us inside where the next usher walks us directly

to our seats—easy enough! As Sheila and I settle in, we look around to observe the other patrons in the audience. While I am dressed in a blazer, the gentlemen next to us is in a polo shirt and jeans; two rows over a lady in a mink sits behind a team of young teenagers dressed in typical teenager fashion. Some young, some old, some gay, some straight, some white, some black; everyone here is commonly united by the bond that is our local theater - and what a spectacle we were in for!

LOVELAND depicts the story of a woman on a cross-country flight as she copes with the loss of her mother. For 75 minutes Ann Randolph, who also wrote the script, mesmerizes the audience with her ability to carry the stage on her own. Acting as Frannie Potts, Randolph is a one-person, but multi-character, show that should not be missed. Through many laughs and few dry eyes, Randolph pushes the limits of the audience and our sensitivities to death. As we walked out, the list of adjectives used by patrons describing the show were as wide-ranging as the characters therein: tear-jerker, amazing, disgusting, hilarious, over-the-edge, relatable, and enlightening. To me, it was everything a play should be: something that makes you think, which is all I could do as I made my way home along M Street on the first night of spring.

Allen A. Flood, M.D.

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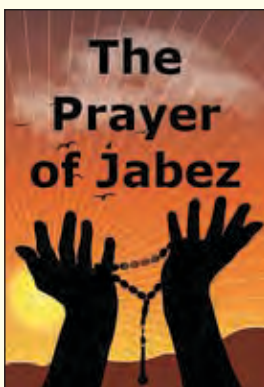
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DC United Stadium: Details on Deal and Community Impact Still Unclear

By: Wes Rivers

Since last summer, Buzzard Point has received a lot of attention as the potential new home for DC United, DC's Major League Soccer team. But, as another soccer season begins, big questions still loom as to when a deal will take place and how it will affect the residents of Southwest. Many DC residents, including those living near the stadium site, are excited about the prospect of a new home for DC United, but Southwest residents want to make sure it is done the right way, by working with the community to work out the many issues that accompany a development of this scale. In response to these concerns, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly partnered with the Fiscal Policy Institute and other organizations to form the Winning Goal Coalition.

The initial agreement to build a soccer stadium was announced last July by Mayor Gray and DC United. Under the agreement, the District would help the team by assembling the land for a stadium, acquiring parcels at Buzzard Point through a complicated series of land transactions. The District would then lease the land to the team for \$1 a year. DC United would be responsible for constructing the stadium itself.

Eight months later, the planning needed to deal with the complexities of building another stadium in Southwest seems nonexistent, and a meaningful response to community concerns has yet to transpire. Buzzard Point's land-locked geography, inadequate infrastructure, environmental concerns, and proximity to Nationals Park pose challenges that must be addressed and that make the project seem very ambitious, especially its March 2017 completion date.

The peninsular geography of Buzzard Point makes a new stadium difficult for two reasons: transportation constraints and general lack of space for the proposed development. With only four small streets leading into the area, traffic bottlenecks are a major concern. This is compounded by the traffic caused by Nationals Park, which has an overlapping season with DC United. The District has been discussing transportation and land use plans for Buzzard Point, including a streetcar study, but opportunities for meaningful community participation have been limited, and it is unclear how these plans are coordinated with the stadium plans.

Residents are also concerned about the possible loss of affordable housing and displacement of low-income families, especially since Buzzard Point has a large concentration of affordable units in the immediate area, including the Greenleaf and Syphax Gardens housing developments. With such little land to accommodate development, the District should make a firm commitment to preserving these units.

The environmental impact of a new stadium also needs to be thoroughly assessed before any deal progresses. A Pepco substation and a scrap yard are among the industrial facilities currently occupying the proposed stadium site. Environmental remediation could be extensive. In March, the Mayor Gray administration kicked off a Buzzard Point Planning Framework Study after a productive Coalition meeting with DC Council Economic Development Committee Chair Muriel Bowser. Shortly thereafter, the Department of General Services announced a mitigation strategy, but the community leaders found the strategy to be inadequate. Complicating matters, a thorough analysis cannot be done until the stadium land is acquired by the District.

If the District is to move forward with the Buzzard Point site, something many residents support, the city and DC United have an obligation to thoroughly evaluate the risks to the neighborhood, mitigate those risks, and make commitments that benefit residents. Elected officials and community members are increasingly calling for traffic studies, environmental assessments, affordable housing, and to know how the stadium would tie into surrounding neighborhoods. The results of these inquiries will be vital in protecting current residents and creating a foundation for a meaningful community benefits package within the stadium agreement.

With or without a stadium, the District needs a plan for the responsible development of Buzzard Point. Policymakers can and will continue discussions with DC United, but a transparent process with meaningful community engagement is needed.

■ Wes Rivers is a Policy Analyst at the DC Fiscal Policy Institute, a member of the Winning Goal Coalition



St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

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8:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist
& Service
9:30 a.m.

Sunday School
9:30 a.m.

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searchers for
Justice, Truth
and Beauty ...
aware of and
responding
to community
need."

Thurs. Apr. 17, 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday,
Sacred Meal, Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist

Fri., Apr. 18, Noon & 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Services,
At noon, Stations of the Cross with *Stabat Mater*
Dolorosa by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-36).

David Ehrlich, piano reduction; Dilyana Kirova, bassoon;
Marje Palmieri, soprano, and Joyce Bouvier, mezzo-
soprano. Evening service will have a dramatic reading
of *The Passion* adapted from St. John's Gospel

Sat., Apr. 19, 9:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

Sun., Apr. 20, 9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday,
Holy Eucharist, Reception and Easter Egg Hunt

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
600 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20024
202-554-3222 • www.staugustinesdc.org
rector@staugustinesdc.org

Welcome to the Neighborhood!



Max Gruber

Name?

Max Gruber

Where did you move from?

Arlington, VA

When did you move here?

March 1, 2014

What it is your first impression of Southwest?


I've been very impressed with Southwest so far. The neighborhood is already so beautiful, and has such amazing potential that it will only be that much better. Where else can you literally walk the National Mall and the Capitol building, be in the heart of of the nation's capital, all while being right along the water?

What are you looking forward to most after moving here?

Obviously, I'm looking forward to exploring the new neighborhood; finding new running routes, new places to eat and drink, and all the hidden gems in Southwest that nobody else yet

knows. I'm excited to bring friends down here who know nothing about the neighborhood and showing them everything this amazing neighborhood has to offer.

■ *Know someone who just moved in you would like to recommend? Send a photo and answers to the above questions to editor@thesouthwester.com.*



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When donating by mail, please make checks or money orders payable to DC Cancer Consortium and write *The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund* on the memo line.



5225 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 503
Washington, D.C. 20015
Phone: 202.821.1933 | Fax: 202.821.1924
Email: thelmadjonesfund@dccanceranswers.org

DC Cancer Consortium is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered in the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Senior Property Tax Relief Bill Passes Council

At March 4th's legislative meeting of the Council of the District Columbia, the "Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2013" passed final vote and passed the Council with the support of ten members approving.

The bill, authored by At-Large Councilmember Anita Bonds, will exempt long-standing residents 70 years of age and older from paying any real property taxes on their primary residence if they have maintained DC residency for at least 20 years, and have a household adjusted gross income of less than \$60,000 and total assets of \$250,000 (on the basis of the \$12,500 interest and dividend limit), excluding residence. The bill was amended to include a provision that wealthier residents would not be able to claim the benefit.

"This act will ease the financial burdens of thousands of the District's low-to-moderate income aging population. These residents have supported the District through dire times, and they deserve the opportunity to age in place gracefully and with dignity," Councilmember Bonds stated. "This legisla-

tion will make this sentiment a reality," she added.

The bill will affect around 6,800 households in the District, who will see an average savings of \$1,198.00.

"This measure is a step in the right direction towards making the District of Columbia livable and affordable for people of all ages and income brackets," stated AARP DC State Director Louis Davis Jr.

The bill will be submitted to Mayor Gray for his signature but it is unclear whether he will fund the proposal. Funding must be identified before implementation. In fact, the majority of bills passed by the Council are subject to appropriations. In contrast, Councilmember Jack Evans shepherded the bill as Chair of the Committee of Finance and Revenue, Councilmember Muriel Bowser consistently promoted the bill, and Councilmembers Jim Graham, Mary Cheh, Kenyan McDuffie, Tommy Wells, Yvette Alexander, Marion Barry, and Vincent Orange all supported the legislation.

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Sunday Mass: Saturday 5:15 PM (Vigil of Sunday)
Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:45 AM and 5:15 PM

Daily Mass: Monday – Friday 8:00 AM and 12:10 PM
Saturday 12:10 PM

Holyday Mass: 5:15 PM (Vigil)
8:00 AM, 12:10 PM, and 5:15 PM

Federal Holidays: 8:00 AM Mass Only

Eucharist Adoration and Holy Hour:
Thursdays, 4:45 PM to 5:45 PM

Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday – Friday 11:55 AM - 12:10 PM
Saturday 4:30PM – 5:00 PM
Thursdays of Lent 5:00-5:30PM

Special Services for the Sacred Paschal Triduum

- ▲ Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper—April 17
- ▲ Evening Mass — 7:30 pm
- ▲ Good Friday — April 18
- ▲ Stations of the Cross — 12:15 pm
- ▲ Celebration of the Lord's Passion — 3 pm
- ▲ Holy Saturday — April 19
- ▲ Morning Prayer — 9 am in the Priory Chapel
- ▲ Easter Vigil in the Holy Night— 7:30 pm
- ▲ Easter Sunday — April 20
- ▲ Celebration of the Resurrection — 10 am Mass only

St. Dominic Catholic Church


630 E Street, SW Washington, DC 20024

Tel: (202) 554-7863

Email: receptionist@stdominicchurch.org

Website: www.stdominicchurch.org





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APRIL 1st

Find your voting location at
dcboee.org/voter_info/find_pollingplace/



Sackler Gallery Prepares for the Cherry Blossom Festival

By: Sheila Wickouski

A special exhibit called “Kiyochika: Master of the Night” will be taking place at the Sackler Gallery as part of the National Cherry Blossom Festival celebrations. Kiyochika is a Japanese artist noted for his print works, which are reflections on the uneasy transformations in Tokyo of railroads, steamships, gaslights, and brick buildings in the late 19th century.

Festivities taking place at the Sackler Gallery will include:

WHAT: A performance of Western music of Kiyochika’s era by Japanese violinist Mayuko Kamio

WHEN: March 27th at 7:30 p.m.

WHAT: “ImaginAsia: Illuminated Nights,” a drop-in workshop where families can create nightscapes of favorite evening activities

WHEN: March 29th & 30th, and April 5th, 6th, 12th, & 13th

WHAT: A film series based on the theme of nocturnes, featuring movies that occur solely at night, will be announced later in the spring.

All of the aforementioned events are free of charge.

The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery is located at 1050 Independence Avenue SW.

Duke Ellington Tribute at Thinking about Jazz

At a recent “Thinking About Jazz” gathering at Westminster Church, 400 I St SW, some 150 music fans paid tribute to

of April 29th, 1969, when President Richard Nixon awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Duke Ellington on his 70th birthday.

The book, which features numerous photos, is a highly-detailed account of the behind-the-scenes preparations and the event itself. During his presentation, the author showed portions of the official White House documentary of that extraordinary night, when jazz artists, music legends, celebrities, and senior government officials all saluted the many contributions of the Duke.

It’s been said that it was a night of many “firsts” – the first time the nation’s highest civilian honor was bestowed upon an African-American, and to a jazz musician. In addition, it was the first time cameras were allowed inside the White House to televise an after dinner concert for the evening news, and to film a documentary to be seen by millions worldwide.

This TAJ program was special for a number of reasons. Vyllorya Evans, whose task it was to organize the event, used Faine’s book as a guide to add several unique touches to the afternoon’s program. In a nod to the Ellington dinner, eleven tables with yellow tablecloths were used. Decorating the tables were fresh floral centerpieces, using flowers identical to the dinner (including orange lilies, yellow roses

See “Tribute,” page 9



Edward Allan Faine speaking.

an American legend who had also been honored 45 years ago at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW. On February 22nd, author Edward Allan Faine was on hand to discuss his book, “*Ellington at the White House 1969*”, which details the evening

Thinking about Jazz: Mingus Speaks

By: Southwest Renaissance Development Corporation

April’s *Thinking About Jazz* (TAJ) program, sponsored by Southwest Renaissance Development Corporation (SRDC) and held at Westminster Church on Saturday, April 26th, 2014 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. will feature author and music critic John Goodman speaking on his collection of interviews with jazz bassist Charles Mingus and ten of his musician friends and associates, with selected commentary by Goodman.

Charles Mingus was born on a military base in Nogales, Mexico, in 1922 and raised in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, CA. His earliest influences came from church music and hearing Duke Ellington as a child, who he idolized throughout his life. He studied double bass and formal composition, also learning by absorbing the great jazz masters, as well as touring the throughout the US and all over the world with the leading musicians of the 1940’s and ‘50’s. He emerged as a leader among jazz musicians, many of whom continue to celebrate his genius today.

Mingus was equally accomplished on piano and left behind an impressive collection of compositions. He rankled at the limitations imposed upon him as a jazz musician, wanting to be known for the many musical styles that influenced him in his ongoing quest to create an ideal, eclectic form of music that would always

identify him.

Moody and often difficult, Mingus could discuss any number of issues that interested him, jumping from politics to civil rights, intellectual phonies, his distaste for electronics in music, as well as rating his fellow musicians – and not always kindly. John Goodman met Mingus in the last decade of the musician’s life and was both pleased and surprised that Mingus agreed to their lengthy sessions, and at how well they got along.

In 1977, Mingus was diagnosed with the nerve disorder known as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). He spent the last years of his life in a wheelchair composing and, as he continued to lose physical strength, his last works were sung into a tape recorder. He died in Mexico in 1979. His widow, Sue Graham Mingus, created the Mingus Foundation, originally formed by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The full catalog of Mingus’ music is available at the New York Public Library and, in 1993, the Library of Congress purchased the full collection of Mingus’ music and memorabilia.

SRDC sponsors these bi-monthly presentations as part of its *Jazz Night* initiative held at Westminster Church, 400 I St SW. Parking is available in the church lot and on the street. The church is located one block north of the Water-front Station on the green line of the metro. A light lunch will be served and several door prizes distributed. Admission is free.



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Opera in The Outfield: *The Magic Flute*

By: Sheila Wickowski

WHAT: Washington National Opera's *The Magic Flute*

WHERE: National Park

WHEN: Saturday, May 3rd, 2014, at 7 p.m. Gates open at 5 p.m. for pregame activities

COST: FREE

MORE INFORMATION: OperaintheOutfield.org

Washington National Opera's *The Magic Flute* is this year's free opera simulcast at Nationals Park, and will take place on the opera's opening night, Saturday, May 3rd,

2014. Gates will open at 5 p.m. for "pregame" activities for the entire family. *The Magic Flute*, which will be performed in English in a new eye-popping production featuring sets and costumes by Japanese-American artist Jun Kaneko, will be broadcast live from the Kennedy Center Opera House to the

high-definition screen at the ballpark at 7 p.m. *The Magic Flute* is a delightful fairy tale, a fantastic adventure filled with danger and temptation, and a profound reflection on spiritual enlightenment. More information is available now at OperaintheOutfield.org.



A view of what boaters see at the start of a big change to the local neighborhood community. The crane will dismantle the docks that hold many memories for the liveaboard community along the waterfront.

Photo: Jason Kopp



TRIBUTE

From p. 8

and snapdragons, and orange and white carnations). When "guests" arrived, they were seated at tables bearing place cards with the names of the celebrated attendees in calligraphy. The White House menu was used as an inspiration for the meal, which included beef bordelaise, potatoes parmentier, and glace nougatine. In extra-special touch, the afternoon's proceedings were captured by the lens of Sharon Farmer, former Director of White House Photography during the Clinton Administration.

During the program, door prizes of autographed books were given away, along with a CD of the 1969 *All-Star White House Tribute to Duke Ellington*.

"Thinking About Jazz" is a (free) bi-monthly program of the Southwest Renaissance Development Corp., housed at Westminster, which takes place on Saturdays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The next program, "*Mingus Speaks*", will take place on April 26th. Author John Goodman presents Charles Mingus in his new book by the same title. Based on extensive interviews with the iconic bass player, the book offers an intimate look at Mingus' views on jazz, his work, other jazz players, and the music business as well as social issues that concerned him: race, war, women, and much more.

APRIL

TUES 1 @ 6:30 P.M. Evening Prayer followed by Simple Lenten Supper. Tuesdays 1st and 8th. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 600 M Street SW, 202-554-3222 www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

WED 2 @ 7-7:30 A.M. Service of Morning Prayer. Every Wednesday during Lent. Watch the sunrise through our chancel windows. Silent reflection on a psalm for the day with brief sharing and prayers for ourselves, the world, and others. 1/2 hour, casual. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street SW.

WED 2 7:00 P.M. Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat Class. For the beginner and experienced boater, “About Boating Safety” is an 8 hour overview of safe boating practices and counts as a safe boating class for state requirements. Four two-hour classes on Mon 7th and Wed 9th. \$25. To register, book included. Go to www.washingtonflotilla.org for more info. and registration.

WED 2 @ 7:00 P.M. St. Augustine’s Art & Spirit Coffeehouse. “Welcome Spring with the Bethesda Chamber Singers.” Among selections, their diverse program includes Marian Hymns from the 16th, 17th and late 20th centuries, Ivor Davies’ setting of Carmen Berros de Gastzold’s Prayers From The Ark, madrigals, and songs from The American Songbook. Coffee and desserts, followed by audience questions and answers. Free, donations accepted. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

FRI 4 @ 6-9 P.M. SPRING FLING LINE DANCE SOCIAL. Come learn the newest line dances. King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Streets SW. Free for ages 21 and over.

FRI 4 @ 6:30 P.M. potluck, 7 P.M. games. St. Augustine’s Game Night. Bring a potluck dish to share. Board and card games provided, but feel free to bring your own games too. All ages welcome. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

SAT 5 @ 10:30 A.M. Family Story Time. Join us for stories, songs and activities to celebrate the season. For children of all ages and their families. SW Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW. 202-724-4752.

SAT 5 @11:00 A.M. DAV Auxiliary, Federal Unit #1 meets at DAV National & Legislative Headquarters, 807 Maine Avenue, SW. This meeting is open to family members of military veterans; please join us. For more information, please contact Commander Gloria Simon at ghs919@msn.com or 202-554-0573.

SAT 5 @ 1-2 P.M. Yoga for Kids, for children ages 8-12. Have fun and stretch your mind and body in new and unique ways! SW Neighborhood Library.

SAT 5 @ 4-5:30 P.M. Experience Yoga Nidra: Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pamela Wilson guides a very deep, conscious relaxation with the opportunity to set your intention. No experience in Yoga or meditation necessary. A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information call 202-746-6654 or email [wiltonpj108@verizon.net](mailto:wilsonpj108@verizon.net)

MON 7 @ 7-8:30 P.M. PAWS of Southwest. The monthly meeting is open to the public in the downstairs community room of in the SW Neighborhood Library. Also find us PAWS of Southwest on Facebook.

TUES 8 @ 4:30-5:30 P.M. CREATE CLUB, TUESDAYS. For Ages 5-12. Each week features a different creative activity. Children under age 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

SAT 12 @ 11AM-1 P.M. SPRING EGG ROLL & FESTIVAL Randall Community Center. Hop on over and join the fun. There will be facepainting, arts & crafts, easter egg hunt and more! Bring your own baskets for separate Egg Hunts for ages 0-3, 4-6 7-9, and 10-12. For more information 554-6973

APRIL 14-18 @ 10 A.M.-3 P.M. SPRING BREAK CAMP AT RANDALL. Register by April 11 . Arts and crafts, field trips and more. Visit us at Facebook.com/Randallcommunitycenter for more information or call 202-554-6973.

MON 14 @ 2 P.M. T-shirt Make-Overs. Join us for hands-on fashion fun as we transform a t-shirt. For children ages 8-12. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

MON 14 @ 7-10 P.M. ANC6D Monthly Business Meeting, 1100 4th St. SW, DCRA Hearing Room on 2nd floor.

TUES 15 @ 2 P.M. T-shirt Make-Overs. Join us for hands-on fashion fun as we transform a t-shirt. For children ages 8-12. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

WED 16 @ Noon Luncheon Meeting. The Southwest Waterfront AARP #4751 chapter. PROGRAM AND SPEAKER-Part I: Remarks by At-Large Council-member Anita Bonds on the economic, employment, housing and other community matters impacting the lives of the Washington, D.C. Senior population. PROGRAM AND SPEAKER-Part II: “A Mirror On America: A Contrasting Image of The Slave.” Dr. Ezra Naughton will present An Historical and Cultural Comparison of Slavery in the Virgin Islands and the United States-Reflections on the 2017 Centennial Recognition of the United States’ purchase of the Virgin Islands from Denmark. Current AARP members and new prospective members are welcome. River Park Mutual Home’s Community Room, 1311 Delaware Avenue SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901. Costs: \$5.00 for lunch.

THURS 17 @ 2 P.M. Tech Day Camp. Join us to explore fun ways to learn computer programming concepts, create a project of your own, and participate in cool activities. Appropriate for ages 8 to 12. Space is limited, so please email or sign up with the children’s staff before attending. Also Friday 18th, Southwest Neighborhood Library.

FRI 18 @ Noon & 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Services. At noon, Stations of the Cross and Stabat Mater Dolorosa by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-36) with David Ehrlich, piano reduction; Dilyana Kirova, bassoon; Marje Palmieri, soprano, and Joyce Bouvier, mezzo-soprano. The 7:00 p.m. service features a dramatic reading of The Passion adapted from St. John’s Gospel. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

MON 21 @ 2 P.M. EARTH DAY CELEBRATION. Join us in a viewing of a Dr. Seuss movie and making crafts using recycled materials. For children ages 5-12. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

MON 21 @ 6 P.M. NATIONAL POETRY MONTH, Mondays April 21st and 28th, and May 5th. Weekly screenings of a video series about modern poetry. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

TUES 22 @ 4:30-5:30 P.M. CREATE CLUB, TUESDAYS. For Ages 5-12. Each week features a different creative activity. Children under age 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

WED 23 @ 7 P.M. OPEN MIC NIGHT for National Poetry month. Compete for prizes, or be a judge. All ages. Free. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

SAT 26 @ 10 A.M.-5 P.M. A POEM ON THE HOUR. Every Hour, in celebration of National Poetry Month, a poem will be read every hour on the hour. Volunteer readers are most welcome!

SAT 26 @ 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Book Sale. Friends of the Southwest Library at the Southwest Library

SAT 26 @ 1 P.M. SOUTHWEST LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION. You are invited to attend a discussion of Mary Ann Schaefer and Annie Barrows’s “The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society.” Copies are available for checkout at the Southwest Library.

SUN 27 @ 2:30 P.M. FAMILY GAMES WORKSHOP. Join us for a program to learn how to play fun and popular board games for kids and families. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

WED 30 @ 4:30 P.M. CELEBRATE NATIONAL GARDENING MONTH. In a hands-on program about plants and worms. For children ages 5-12. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

Community Calendar

View our on-line calendar at www.swdc.org/calendar.

Submit Calendar events to calendar@thesouthwester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

ADULTS/SENIORS BINGO BRUNCH, 1-3 P.M., Mondays and Thursdays, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Streets SW. FREE

ADULT YOGA, 5 P.M Mondays, FREE at Randall Community Center, 820 South Capitol & Eye Sts SW, 554-6973.

BABY AND TODDLER STORY TIME, 10:30 A.M., April 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. Join us for fun songs, finger plays, baby bounces and rhymes as we work together to develop early literacy skills. Designed for children ages birth to 2 years and their caregivers. SW Neighborhood Library.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street SW, Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 A.M. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 600 M Street SW. Children ages 3 and older are invited to join our loving and lively Sunday School where they are introduced to a loving God who welcomes and cares for all. Through biblical stories, art, music and holy play, our children are nurtured in their natural spirituality to grow as the “littlest members” of a community of faith.

COMPUTER CLASSES, Tuesdays 10-12 Noon, SW Neighborhood Library, 724-4752.

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| TUES 1 | Introduction to Personal Computers |
| TUES 8 | Internet Basics |
| TUES 15 | DC Public Library website |
| TUES 22 | Email basics |

CREATE CLUB, TUESDAYS, 4:30-5:30 P.M. For Ages 5-12. Each week features a different creative activity. Children under age 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

GAME CLUB, TUESDAY, 4:30-5:30 P.M. April 1st and 15th. Children ages 5-12 are invited to join us after-school for fun playing board games each week. Children under 9 years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

GAME NIGHT, 6:30-7:30pm, Thursdays April 3rd, 10th, and 24th. Teens age 13-19 are invited to play Wii games at the library. Southwest Neighborhood Library.

GIRLS SCOUTS TROOP 4298, WEDNESDAYS, 5:30-7 P.M., K-12. Contact Monica Evans, King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Streets SW. 645-7454.

GIRLS SOFTBALL, TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 5-6 P.M. Ages, 12-15. See Safiyyah Aleem-Woods, King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12-2 P.M., Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children 8-17. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th Street SW, Community room off Wesley Place, SW.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12:45-3:45 P.M., with Mr. Zeke, King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, FRIDAYS, 6-9 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

JOB CLUB, TUESDAYS, 12-2 P.M. Ages 18 and older. Contacts Paul Taylor, Mike Wilson. King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

JOB SEEKERS PROGRAM, THURSDAYS, 1-7:00 P.M., By Appointment Only. Help with resumes, cover letters, applications and other aspects of the job search process. SW Neighborhood Library. Call 724-4298 or stop by to set up an appointment. April 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th.

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, 6:30-7:30 P.M., every first and third Monday Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW.

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS MEETING, 10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M., Looking to develop speaking and leadership skills? Ace a job interview? Ignite your career.

Komen Toastmasters meets every 1st & 3rd Saturday at the SW Neighborhood Library. Feel free to visit us and to see our communications and leadership program at work.

MACHINE PITCH, Mondays & Wednesdays, 5-6 P.M., Contact Paul Taylor, King Greenleaf Recreation Center. 645-7454.

NARFE-The National Active and Retired Federal Employees, 1:30-2:30 P.M., every fourth Thursday through May. SW Neighborhood Library, basement meeting room.

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH, Mondays April 21st and 28th, and May 5th—6:00 p.m. Weekly screenings of a video series about modern poetry. SW Neighborhood Library.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 105, Community meeting, 7-8:30 P.M., every Third Thursday, Location announced at previous meeting.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 106, Community meeting, 10-11 A.M., every Last Saturday, Senior Citizen Community Room 900 5th Street S.E.

PRE SCHOOL STORYTIME, 10:30 A.M. Wednesdays 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th. Join us for books, songs, rhymes, and finger plays as we continue to strengthen early literacy skills while enjoying stories together. An easy craft activity follows story time each week. Designed for children ages 2 to 5 and their caregivers. SW Neighborhood Library.

PAJAMA STORYTIME, 6 P.M. Thursdays 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. Put on your pajamas, grab your teddy bear and join us in the Children’s Room for a story time before heading to bed! We’ll read stories, sing songs, and perform finger plays together. For children of all ages and their families. SW Neighborhood Library.

SASSY SENIORS, Monthly trips to play bingo, have parties, chat and chews, exercise and a great deal of other things. Come and sign up to participate. King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Contact Tiletia Harris-Walker 202-645-7454.

SEATED YOGA, 11:00-Noon on Mondays, and Wednesdays 4-5 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pamela Wilson guides a gentle series of movements designed to free the joints and ease the mind. This is part of Westminster’s Wellness program.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, 8:30 P.M., Mondays, St. Augustine’s Church, 600 M Street SW, (202) 554-3222.

SW FREEWAY, NA, 7-8 P.M., Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street SW.

SW LIBRARY, Saturday 1st- Friday, 28th. In celebration of Valentine’s Day, stop by the library to check out a wrapped title. It may be a fiction or nonfiction title, but like the best blind dates, it should be fun.

TENNIS FOR BEGINNERS, Wednesdays, 5-7 P.M., DPR Certified Volunteers at King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

TOT LOT Program, 10:30 A.M. Thursdays, Randall Community Center. 554-6973. Activity time for toddlers, ages 18 mos. to 3 years and parents/caregivers. Movement and activities that develop gross motor skills that can enhance balance, coordination, socialization, strength, self-esteem and reinforce cognitive development in a safe, nurturing and fun environment.

WALK FOR WELLNESS Tuesdays and Fridays, while walking to music, 11-12 P.M. in the gym of King Greenleaf Recreation Center.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR’S CLUB, 7-9 P.M., First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps. Refreshments, auctions and programs. Christ United Methodist Church. 202-863-0564

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4 P.M. Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). 5:30 P.M. Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). 6:45 P.M. Sampoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). 7 P.M. Narcotics Anonymous SW Freeway Meeting.

YOGA FOR ADULTS AND TEENS, Tuesdays 7-8 P.M. April 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. This program is geared toward beginners but all are welcome to attend. Bring your own mat or use one at the library. SW Neighborhood Library.

Endorsed by: The Washington Post

March 14, 2014

Mr. Allen has the keener knowledge of neighborhood issues, the complexities of D.C. government and how to bring about solutions to its problems. His sensitivity to ethical concerns would be valuable.



CHARLES ALLEN

WARD 6

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- Great schools at every level, with a new focus on middle schools
- Affordable family-based housing
- Safe neighborhoods with quality transit
- Successful aging at home
- Small businesses that support our community

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SW Gardens Kickoff at Lansburgh Park

On Saturday, March 22, 1 pm – 5 pm, local residents turned out to the spring kickoff for the Southwest Community Gardens at Lansburgh Park. At the event, local children learned the basics of gardening from the dedicated garden members and local leadership. Councilmember Tommy

Wells, Ward 6 candidate Charles Allen and SWNA President Kael Anderson all made appearances while learning alongside local residents. Below are some photos of the event:

How-to Steps:

(1) Drill holes in bucket, (2) 1-2 inches of rocks, (3) Four

inches of dirt, (4) 2-3 seed potatoes, (5) Two inches of dirt, (6) Dirt, straw, or mulch added as plants grow.

Shovel dirt into bucket and carry your bucket back to the garden. Place in direct sunlight. Three-four months to grow to maturity (harvest when leaves turn brown with age)



At top, far left: Local children learn how easy it can be to build a salad with locally grown, basic ingredients. At top, left, the wait-see-learn part of the process. Below left, children learn how easy it can be to grow a small potato garden with only needing basic materials.

Below center, SWNA President Kael Anderson learns about planting for seedlings. Below right, SW Community Garden President Kamilla Kovacs talks to Ward 6 Candidate Charles Allen



DCHA Engages Residents on Future of Greenleaf

By: Rachel Reilly Carroll

Last year, the DC Housing Authority (DCHA) unsuccessfully applied for a Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to fund the redevelopment planning process for nearly 500 units of public housing at Greenleaf. The Greenleaf community, which includes Greenleaf Gardens, Greenleaf Senior, Greenleaf Extension, and Greenleaf Addition, occupies four blocks along M Street SW, adjacent to the Waterfront metro station. Once notified that Greenleaf had not been chosen for a planning grant in November, DCHA indicated that it was still interested in moving forward with redeveloping Greenleaf's current footprint into a denser, mixed-income community.

This spring, DCHA will host a series of meetings for Greenleaf residents to discuss the future, and likely redevelopment, of their homes. The first of these meetings was held on February 24th at the Greenleaf Senior building, where DCHA representative Janice Burgess spoke to more than 70 residents about not receiving the Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant, and the foreseen next steps in the planning process.

During this meeting, many residents had questions about moving, the condition of the current buildings, and whether Greenleaf had already been sold (the answer is "no"). Mrs. Burgess stated that the planning process is likely to take between 18 and 24 months, and encouraged residents to participate throughout. She also reaffirmed DCHA's commitment to one-for-one replacement, meaning that any redevelopment scenario would ensure that all 500

public housing units are rebuilt in the Southwest community.

In response to DCHA's newest redevelopment planning efforts, Greenleaf Extension Resident Council President and SWNA Board Member Dena Walker stated "This change will directly impact the social, academic, and economic environments of families. I am committed to facilitating a progressive working relationship amongst involved Greenleaf Extension residents, DCHA, and other Southwest community stakeholders who express interest in the planning processes and implementation phases of the redevelopment effort."

The future of the Greenleaf community has been a hot topic during the primary election season, with both Mayoral and City Council candidates stating that priority should be placed on allowing Greenleaf residents to remain in Southwest both during and after redevelopment. Key to ensuring that residents are not displaced from the community during the redevelopment process is a commitment to Build-First. In a Build-First model, new units are developed prior to the demolition. Doing so allows construction to be phased on different parcels within the public housing footprint. As each building is finished, residents will move from their current home to the newly constructed home within the same community.

In the coming weeks, DCHA will issue a request for proposals to hire a land-use planner that will work with the residents to design the future of the Greenleaf community. A planning charrette is tentatively scheduled for late spring. DCHA is seeking input on this project, and encourages Greenleaf residents to contact them about the planning process at (202) 535-1445.

February Real Estate Update

By Jason Martin

Not much commentary this month as these numbers tell the story. Now that spring is arriving I expect the March numbers to be equally as impressive. If you have any real estate related questions don't hesitate to give us a call (202-641-0299).

| | Feb. 2014 | Feb. 2013 | %Change |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Sold Dollar Volume | \$4,861,350 | \$2,973,500 | 63.49% |
| Avg Sold Price | \$285,962 | \$247,792 | 15.40% |
| Median Sold Price | \$266,500 | \$257,000 | 3.70% |
| Units Sold | 17 | 12 | 41.67% |
| Avg Days on Market | 16 | 51 | -68.63% |
| Avg List Price for Solds | \$289,512 | \$254,117 | 13.93% |
| Avg SP to OLP Ratio | 98.3% | 95.0% | 3.47% |



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